

PUBLIC MEETING
CAR PARKING DIFFICULTIES IN THE PARISH
WI Community Hall, Newton Ferrers
Monday 16 September 2013 7pm
Minutes

Representatives:

Newton & Noss Parish Council: Mrs Suzie Cooper, Chairman.

South Hams District Council: Cllr. Suzie Cooper, Mrs. Cathy Aubertin
Street Scene Manager, Environment Services

Devon County Council; Cllr William Mumford and Mr. Peter Brunt Neighbourhood Highway
Manager (Newton Abbot & Ivybridge)

Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – apologies sent. Work commitments/annual leave.

Approximately 65 parishioners attended the meeting

The Chairman, Councillor Suzie Cooper addressed the Meeting on Parish parking concerns raised by parishioners.

1. South side of the corner junction between Court Road and the Fairway

Concerns were raised regarding builders vans being parked on the south side. With the addition of large Co op delivery lorries using Court Road, it made it very dangerous to round the corner irrespective of whether drivers slowed down.

Reference was made to the large number of houses in the area, with many cars and a small amount of road on which to park.

2. Newton Hill and The Brook

Reference was made to the large number of parking tickets received by residents which was felt to be a fund raising initiative for SHDC. Some residents said they had little option but to park in the restricted areas as they had no off street parking. The nearest unrestricted parking was a quarter of a mile away on Yealm Road or by Holy Cross Church. People in those areas then became annoyed when residents from Newton Hill/Riverside Roads East and West parked there.

Suggestions were made to alter the times for the restricted parking. Some suggested it should be increased to 1 hour and better policed on Newton Hill to keep up a turnover of traffic to enable access to the shops.

Another resident was against residents only parking suggesting there should be no parking restrictions, stating that the parking had worked very well until it was policed.

A resident suggested revisiting a previous idea raised twenty years previously when the owners of the Court House Hotel offered a large piece of land at the bottom of their garden as a village car park. If the right approach was made to the current owners it could provide parking for 10-14 cars and alleviate the problems of deliveries to the Co op.

Mr. Brunt advised that there were a number of other areas in Devon with similar problems and who were looking at alternative strategies to overcome the difficulties caused by the steady increase in car ownership. If residents' parking was to be introduced, 70-75% of people in the area must have no ability to park off street. Any strategy to alleviate the parking problem in the Parish should be looked at from a Parish wide perspective and well thought through. He referred to part of the Newton & Noss Parish Plan referring to traffic management and parking. The Parish needed to start looking for alternatives and if land was offered to grasp it. The Parish needed to accommodate growth. Parking should be looked at in conjunction with housing - a parishioner referred to this being included in a Neighbourhood Plan. Planners should be more relaxed about permitting off street parking development.

A resident of Riverside Road East referred to the planning restrictions on developing off street parking on the south side.

A resident of Riverside Road West advised that current parking at The Brook would prevent fire appliances reaching the properties.

Upon reference being made to increased parking enforcement in the area, Mrs Aubertin confirmed that the increase had been as a result of complaints that there had been no enforcement. Issues had been caused by roads being clogged up by cars. Enforcement took place where restrictions were in place. Restrictions had been put in place by DCC for good reason.

A parishioner referred to the lack of parking restrictions on the A379 running through Yealmpton.

Mr. Brunt confirmed that DCC would not have put parking restrictions in place for no reason. Restrictions would have been put in place following public consultation. Proposed Traffic Orders were advertised. Opportunity for local residents to object would have been given.

A resident near the Brook suggested time and seasonal adjustment for parking restrictions.

A Newton Hill resident suggested that Design and Access Statements, as part of planning applications, should address how builders and the increase in traffic will be managed. Breaches could be enforced by SHDC. If the construction management plan was not part of the application then the Parish Council should object to the application.

A parishioner suggested there had been no new properties built in those areas. If people purchased properties down there, knowing there was no off street parking, then that was a matter for them. To then complain about parking enforcement was ridiculous. Builders unloaded in the area and then went to park on Yealm Road.

SHDC confirmed parking restrictions applied on Bank Holiday Mondays. It did depend on the Traffic Order but most restrictions applied on Bank Holidays in Devon.

3. Yealm Road- Yealm Steps

A resident advised that she had lived on Yealm Road since 1962. She was unable to have a garage or off street parking. There was a constant problem with people parking in the area and then leaving their cars to go off sailing for weeks on end. Drivers also parked on both sides of the road obstructing the bus. The bus had had to reverse on a number of occasions. People needed access to a bus along Yealm Road.

Reference was made to notification in sailing periodicals about the ability to charter a boat from Plymouth but then to park for free in Newton Ferrers. This was a suggestion overheard being made by Plymouth Sailing School to their clients. A resident suggested there should be no overnight parking along that stretch.

Someone suggested a bay for unloading at the top of Yealm Steps. There were double yellow lines there already where people could unload provided no one had parked on them.

A resident of Riverside Road East suggested that their parking problems were in effect displacing the problem to Yealm Road and the Church. If parking restrictions were alleviated it may help Yealm Road.

4. Stoke Road

Cllr Mumford referred to perceived problems up the hill a short distance from Junket Corner. He would look at reinstatement of the double yellow lines.

5. Butts Park

A parishioner referred to difficulties in gaining access to his garage. It was thought Tor Homes owned the lane.

6. Hairpin bend Revelstoke Road

During August visitors had parked either side. The car park by the tennis courts had been half empty. It was suggested that either people didn't know it was there or couldn't be bothered to walk. There had been no enforcement.

7. Entrance to Passage Road

Cars frequently parked at the entrance making it difficult for emergency vehicle access. Double yellow lines on the left side were ignored. There was no enforcement.

8. Junction at Beacon Hill

A resident referred to safety issues in negotiating the junction when contractors' vehicles were parked on the corner. Recently there had been up to 20 contractors vehicles parked between Wrights Lane and Lower Court Road.

Reference was made to the inclusion of planning conditions limiting the number of contractors' vehicles with contractors parking away from the site and sharing vehicles. There was often up to five vehicles parked outside one property.

Potential Solutions

Reference was made to an out of village car park which could help with the problems at Yealm Steps and contractors. Difficulties were anticipated in securing suitable land. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council did not have any suitable land for a car park. Collaton was suggested but this land did not belong to the Parish Council. A suggestion was made about the green area by Tor homes Car park at The Dillons. It was thought there may not be sufficient room to alleviate the problem.

Cllr Mumford suggested removing restrictions at Newton Hill/The Brook could result in holidaymakers leaving their cars for two weeks affecting both local residents and businesses. Restrictions had been removed elsewhere but had caused gridlock and did not work. A fast turnover of parking spaces helped local businesses. The Traffic Regulation Order would be inspected and clarification sought as to whether restrictions applied to Bank Holidays.

The suggestion of a seasonal adjustment to the parking restrictions was probably quite valid.

Increasing time restrictions from 45 minutes on some spaces would be reviewed. To keep some at 45 minutes was thought to be prudent for shop businesses but some could perhaps be increased to between one and two hours.

Court Road and The Fairway- Cllr. Mumford noted the concern about increase in contractors' vehicles and wanted to see tighter construction management plans for builders.

Mrs Aubertin confirmed that enforcement officers had issued tickets for parking on double yellow lines at the top of Yealm Steps. Double yellows gave a time of twenty minutes to unload.

Stoke Road- Cllr Mumford confirmed he would look into the reinstatement of the double yellow lines

Butts Park- ownership of the lane outside the garages would be checked with Tor Homes

Revelstoke Road- it was accepted that double parking down the hill caused intense frustration.

Passage Road- there were double yellow lines but nevertheless the entrance became obstructed.

Beacon Hill- may be resolved by construction management plans.

Cllr Mumford advised that he and Mr. Brunt would review matters and come back to the Parish Council.

Funding would be an issue- a Traffic Regulation Order would cost £3500. It could however cover the entire village. If there was a private development planned such as the Village Housing Initiative, it could be tagged on.

A resident referred to selfish parking in particularly the narrow stretches of Yealm Road. Neither buses nor fire engines would be able to get down. Cllr. Mumford suggested calling the police and reporting the obstruction. The police had the ability to tow offending cars away. Mr. Brunt confirmed that word regarding ticketing and towing away would soon get around.

With respect to Beacon Hill, the police could be contacted if there were immediate safety issues. When the development was completed however the builders would be gone. It was sometimes difficult to legislate against selfish drivers and those who would not adhere to the Highway Code.

Mrs. Aubertin advised that SHDC would enforce if complaints were received.

The Parish Council was asked to write to Plymouth Sailing School to complain about advice given to park in the Parish.

Reference was made to parking on the foreshore by the Ship.

Reference was made to the number of people who parked on the road whilst having off street parking. A suggestion was made to use unilateral parking on Yealm Road- parking being permitted on one side of the road only. A parishioner suggested that in France unilateral parking operated by alternating sides.

Reference was made to home delivery vans increasing problems.

There had been an increase in kayaks being launched by non residents. It was thought the RYHA had the ability to charge but to date had not done so.

A Collaton resident asked some thought to be given to those parishioners who live slightly further out and who may not want the imposition of lots of restrictions.

Cllr Mumford advised that he and Mr Brunt would review what was available around Newton Hill and the Brook- looking at the number of houses, number of cars and spaces available. He estimated there was probably two-three times more cars than spaces. The problem would not be resolved but perhaps alleviated. There were simply too many cars.

Meeting closed at 8pm.